AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A code conversion method of receiving a first code string ~~compliant with a first encoding method~~ to convert the first code string into a second code string ~~compliant with a second encoding method~~, and to output the same, ~~characterized by~~ the method comprising:

~~a first step of~~ generating a ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal from the first code string in accordance with a ~~first~~ decoding method ~~corresponding to the first encoding method~~; and

~~a second step of~~ judging whether the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal is an audio signal or a non-audio signal by using information contained in the first code string, and encoding the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal in accordance with ~~the second~~ an encoding method on the basis of the judgment to generate a second code string.

2. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the ~~second~~ judging step includes ~~a step of~~ judging whether the ~~first~~ decoded signal is the audio signal or the non-audio signal by using one of frame type information contained in the first code string and a size of the first code string.

3. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the ~~first~~ generating step includes a step of separating a header containing frame type information and a payload from the first code string, and a step of decoding an audio of a code corresponding to an audio parameter, in accordance with the ~~first~~ decoding method and outputting ~~the~~ a decoded audio signal as ~~a first~~ the decoded

~~audio~~ signal when the frame type information corresponds to an audio section, and decoding a noise of a code corresponding to a noise parameter in accordance with the ~~first~~ decoding method and outputting the decoded noise as ~~a first~~ the decoded noise when the frame type information corresponds to a non-audio section; and

the ~~second~~ judging step includes ~~a step of~~ executing control based on the frame type information to output the ~~first~~ decoded audio signal when the frame type information corresponds to the audio section and to output the ~~first~~ decoded noise when the frame type information corresponds to the ~~non-audio~~ noise section.

4. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ the ~~second~~ judging step further ~~includes~~ including: ~~a step of~~ encoding the ~~first~~ decoded audio signal in accordance with the ~~second~~ encoding method to output the same as a second code string when the frame type information corresponds to the audio section, ~~a step of~~ encoding the ~~first~~ decoded noise by the ~~second~~ encoding method to output the same as a second code when the frame type information corresponds to the ~~non-audio~~ non-audio section, ~~a step of~~ setting the second code obtained by encoding the ~~first~~ decoded audio signal in accordance with the ~~second~~ encoding method as a payload on the basis of the frame type information when the frame type information corresponds to the audio section, and outputting [[a]] the second code string obtained by adding a header to the payload from an output terminal and a step of setting [[a]] the second code obtained by encoding the ~~first~~ decoded noise by the ~~second~~ encoding method as a payload when the frame type information corresponds to the non-audio section, and outputting [[a]] the second code string obtained by adding a header to the payload from the output terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) A code conversion device for receiving a first code string compliant with a first encoding method to convert the first code string into a

second code string compliant with a second encoding method, and to output the same, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

an audio decoding ~~circuit~~ device for generating a ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal from the first code string in accordance with a ~~first~~ decoding method ~~corresponding to the first encoding method~~; and

an audio encoding ~~circuit~~ device for judging whether the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal is an audio signal or a non-audio signal [[by]] using information contained in the first code string, and encoding the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal in accordance with the ~~second~~ encoding method on the basis of the judgment to generate [[a]] the second code string.

6. (Currently Amended) The code conversion device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein whether the ~~first~~ decoded signal is the audio signal or the non-audio signal is judged by using one of frame type information contained in the first code string and a size of the first code string.

7. (Currently Amended) The code conversion device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the audio decoding device includes a header information extraction circuit, an audio decoding circuit, a noise decoding circuit, and a first switch;

the header information extraction circuit separates a header containing frame type information and a payload from the first code string, outputs a code corresponding to an audio parameter to the audio decoding circuit when the frame type information corresponds to an audio section, and outputs a code corresponding to

a noise parameter to the noise decoding circuit when the frame type information corresponds to a non-audio section;

the audio decoding circuit receives a first code string output from the header information extraction circuit, decodes an audio from the first code string by the ~~first~~ decoding method ~~corresponding to the first encoding method~~, and outputs the decoded audio ~~as a first~~ signal as the decoded ~~audio~~ signal to the first switch;

the noise decoding circuit receives the first code string output from the header information extraction circuit, decodes a noise from the first code string by the ~~first~~ decoding method ~~corresponding to the first encoding method~~, and outputs the decoded noise as ~~a first~~ the decoded noise signal to the first switch; and

the first switch receives the frame type information output from the header information extraction circuit, outputs the ~~first~~ decoded audio signal output from the audio decoding circuit when the frame type information corresponds to the audio section, and outputs the ~~first~~ decoded noise output from the noise decoding circuit when the frame type information corresponds to the non-audio section.

8. (Currently Amended) The code conversion device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

the audio encoding device includes a second switch, an audio encoding circuit, a noise encoding circuit, and a header information addition switch;

the second switch receives the frame type information output from the header information extraction circuit of the ~~audio~~ decoding device, outputs the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal output from the first switch to the audio encoding circuit when the frame type information corresponds to the audio section, and outputs the ~~first~~

decoded noise output from the first switch to the noise encoding circuit when the frame type information corresponds to the non-audio section;

the audio encoding circuit receives the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal output from the second switch, encodes the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal by the ~~second~~ encoding method, and outputs the decoded ~~audio~~ signal as [[a]] the second code string to the header information addition circuit;

the noise encoding circuit receives the ~~first~~ decoded noise output from the second switch, encodes the ~~first~~ decoded noise by the ~~second~~ encoding method, and outputs the decoded noise as [[a]] the second code string to the header information addition circuit; and

the header information addition circuit receives the frame type information output from the header information extraction circuit of the audio decoding device, sets [[the]] a second code output from the audio encoding circuit as a payload when the frame type information corresponds to the audio section, and outputs [[a]] the second code string obtained by adding a header to the payload via an output terminal, sets the second code output from the noise encoding circuit as a payload when the frame type information corresponds to the non-audio section, and outputs [[a]] the second code string obtained by adding a header to the payload via the output terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a code conversion program for use in operating a program controlled processor device that constitutes a code conversion device responsive to a first code string ~~compliant with a first encoding method~~ so as to convert the first code string into a second code string ~~compliant with a second method~~, the program making the program-controlled processor device execute the steps of:

(a) ~~processing of~~ generating a first decoded audio signal from the first code string by a ~~first~~ decoding method; and

(b) ~~processing of~~ judging whether the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal is an audio signal or a non-audio signal by using information contained in the first code string, and encoding the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal by ~~the second~~ an encoding method based on the judgment to generate a second code string.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~code conversion program~~ computer readable medium according to claim 9, the program making the processor device [[to]] execute ~~the processing of~~ a step of judging whether the ~~first~~ decoded ~~audio~~ signal is the audio signal or the non-audio signal by using one of frame type information contained in the first code string and a size of the first code string

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A code conversion method for ~~first decoding~~ converting a first code string containing a header and a payload ~~and encoded according to a first encoding method, and then encoding the code string according to a second encoding method~~, ~~characterized by~~ into a second code string, said method comprising: judging whether the first code string is an audio signal or a non-audio signal based on at least one of the header and the payload of the first code string, decoding the first code string based on the judgment, and then encoding the code string according to the ~~second~~ encoding method into the second code string.

13. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first ~~encoding method and the second encoding method are different from each other~~ code string and the second code string are encoded by encoding methods different from each other.

14. (Currently Amended) The code conversion method according to claim 12, wherein the first ~~encoding method and the second encoding method are identical to each other~~ code string and the second code string are encoded by the same encoding method.

15. (cancelled)

16. (New) The code conversion method of claim 1, wherein the non-audio signal corresponds to a no-sound section or a noise section.

17. (New) The code conversion device of claim 5, wherein the non-audio signal corresponds to a no-sound section or a noise section.

18. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the non-audio signal corresponds to a no-sound section or a noise section.

19. (New) The code conversion method of claim 12, wherein the non-audio signal corresponds to a no-sound section or a noise section.

20. (New) A code conversion method of receiving a first code string to convert the first code string into a second code string, and to output the same, the method comprising:

generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method; and

judging whether the decoded signal corresponds to an audio signal or a non-audio signal based on a size of the first code string, and encoding the decoded signal on the basis of the judgment to generate a second code string.

21. (New) A code conversion device for receiving a first code string to convert the first code string into a second code string, and to output the same, comprising:

a decoding circuit for generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method; and

an encoding circuit for judging whether the decoded signal corresponds to an audio signal or a non-audio signal based on a size of the first code string, and encoding the decoded signal on the basis of the judgment to generate a second code string.

22. (New) A computer readable medium storing a code conversion program making a program-controlled processor device execute the steps of a code conversion method of receiving a first code string to convert the first code string into a second code string, and to output the same, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a decoded signal from the first code string in accordance with a decoding method; and

judging whether the decoded signal corresponds to an audio signal or a non-audio signal based on a size of the first code string, and encoding the decoded signal on the basis of the judgment to generate a second code string.